



GROWING AND ADAPTING

Ecumenical Community
Helping Others

FY 24 Annual Report





The Little Family of Alexandria, longtime supporters of ECHO, recently designed this sign to help brighten the walls of the Food Room. The children enjoyed collecting the jars of many teen favorite food items in order to have the needed bottle caps for the sign. The mural has been installed in ECHO's Food Pantry to brighten the room for clients and volunteers as they gather food for families. This mural is a beautiful and heartfelt contribution to ECHO.

Thank you!



ECHO FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



After more than 50 years of service to families in the Burke/Springfield community, ECHO is still growing and adapting to better serve our community. We hope, that as you read this report, you will get a sense of the scope of the assistance ECHO provides and an appreciation for how much good your generous donations have made in a community that continues to struggle with inadequate resources

In Fiscal Year 2024 (July 2023 to June 2024) we started to see an increase in the number of clients coming to ECHO for assistance – caught between a rising cost-of-living and minimal wage growth in low skill, hourly jobs. This trend continued into FY 2025, we are distributing more food and helping more clients with housing and utilities than any time since the pandemic period.

The good news, reflected in the client stories we often hear, is that our clients are able, with our assistance, to get over a rough-patch, get back on their feet and actually share their good fortune with others.

ECHO is almost entirely dependent on donations from individuals, congregations, organizations and local businesses. Your past donations have helped not just individual families but the entire community. Children growing up in a stable household with adequate food, clothing and school supplies will become an important part of the future of our community.













We hope that, as you read this report, you will get a sense of the need for the assistance ECHO provides and how impactful your donations have been and can be.

Bob Vitter
President

Mike Baier
Executive Director



Your Generous Donations Made This Possible

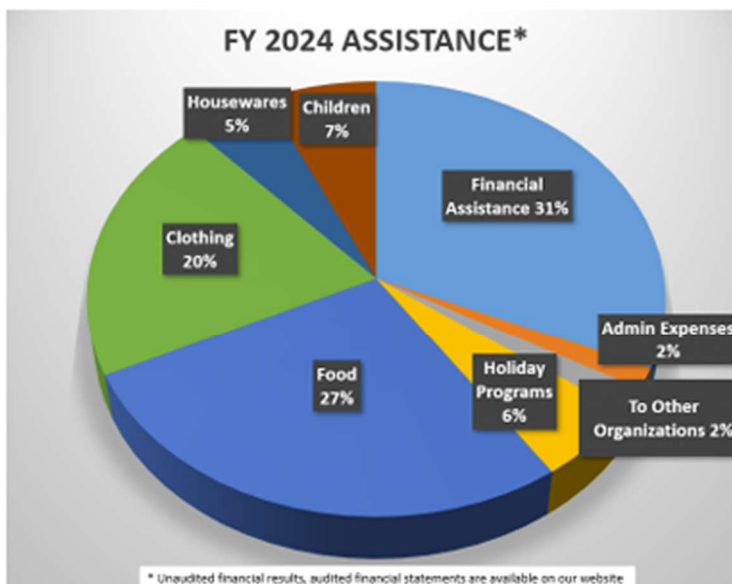
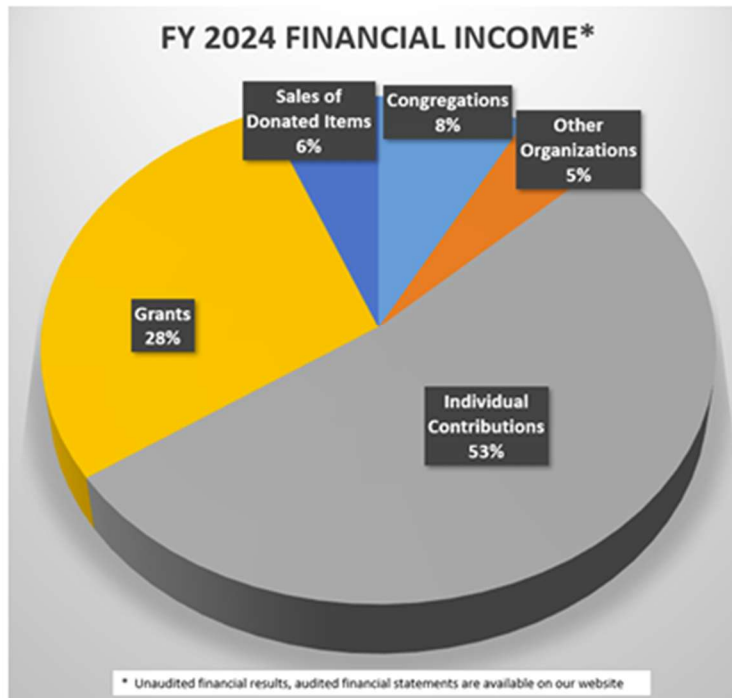
<p>Families Fed</p>  <p>1,659 families</p>  <p>259,563 pounds of food</p> <p>\$51,040</p> 	<p>Households Maintained</p>  <p>\$205,050 in rent/mortgage assistance to 293 families</p> <p>\$139,082 in utility assistance to 278 families</p>
<p>Children Equipped</p>  <p>1,230 backpacks filled with school supplies</p> <p>1,224 Education Materials Kits</p> 	<p>Holidays Brightened</p> <p>452 Thanksgiving and Christmas Baskets</p>  <p>548 children received a Christmas Gift</p> 
<p>Families Clothed</p> <p>973 families received 3,887 bags of clothing</p>  <p>1,473 coats and jackets</p> 	<p>Infants' Basic Needs Met</p>  <p>357 cans of Infant Formula*</p> <p>627 boxes of diapers</p> 

* Formula distributed in partnership with First Baptist Church of Springfield



FY 2024 Financial Summary

ECHO is able to provide much needed assistance to families in our community because of the generosity of many, many donors that contribute In-Kind (food, clothing, housewares, school supplies) items as well as financial contributions.





Our Mission Reflected in Our Client's Stories

ECHO provides assistance to individuals/families in need within the Burke/Springfield community by offering food, clothing, housewares, and financial assistance for housing/utilities.



Zannetta

In August 2024, Zannetta came to the ECHO donation door for the first time with two boxes of food, a box of children's books, and a bag of housewares. Talking with Executive Director, Mike Baier, Zannetta said she had been helped by ECHO at a critical time in her life and she wanted to donate to help someone else who might be experiencing a crisis.

Her crisis resulted from a medical emergency: an allergic reaction to a medicine that left Zannetta in a coma and then in the Intensive Care Unit from February through June of 2019.

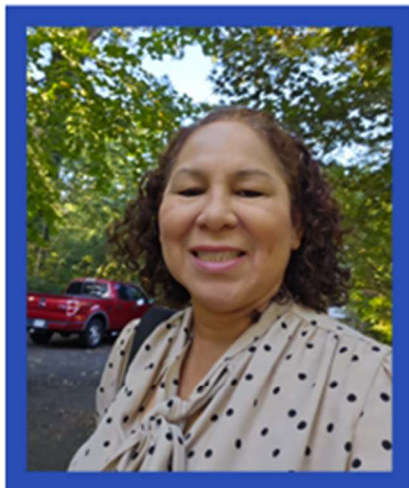
Zannetta was a preschool teacher and was granted medical leave. However, her medical expenses cost 40% of her income. When she applied for social services assistance, she was told she made too much money. "Can you, imagine?" she asked with a good-natured chuckle. "I had six children ranging from age three to 16, and I made too much money."

ECHO helped her cover rent and utilities the month she just could not make her salary stretch that far. She received enough food to help feed her children and help her catch up with other bills. She wants her children to see that it is good to give. I tell them, "You never know the day that you might be the person who needs to receive."





Rosa



Rosa aspired to achieve financial independence and decided establishing a cleaning service was something she might be able to do. She connected with Northern Virginia Family Services, where a small business counselor began to mentor her. Given \$100 to purchase cleaning supplies, Rosa found a discarded vacuum cleaner on the side of the road by the trash. She cleaned and repaired it and began going door-to-door seeking clients. Soon clients began recommending her to their friends.

Realizing that her dream of starting a business was beginning to come true she came to ECHO and asked for a refurbished laptop computer. The small business counselor kept in touch with Rosa, led her to seminars for entrepreneurs, helped her incorporate her business and prepare a business plan. Rosa proudly shared her website that shows the company has more than 200 commercial and residential clients. "I completely support my household," she said, "and everything I have done is on that computer." Recently she visited ECHO in business attire with her company's business card. "I want to give back and hope some ECHO clients might benefit from jobs in the business I started with your help."



GROWING AND ADAPTING

Ventures 2024



Growing to Better Serve Our Clients - new **Volunteer Parking Lot** opened

Preparing volunteers to deal with health emergencies - **Red Cross CPR/AED training**



Enabling Counselors to better communicate with Clients - **Translation Devices and Phone Headsets**

Improving Client access to assistance - **Lyft rides** for client's without access to a car





IN APPRECIATION

Business and Organization Sponsors

- Cardinal Forest Plaza Shell
- Bangladeshi Community
- Fresh World
- Language on Demand
- Malek's Pizza Palace
- Merry Maids
- Sheehy Ford
- Sheehy VW/Subaru
- Target Corporation
- TDS Writing Solutions, Inc.
- Wegmans

Special Sponsors

- Clifton Community Women's Club
- Dollology Club of Washington, DC.
- Greenspring Village
- Great Harvest Bread, Burke
- Interstate Van Lines
- Lake Braddock Vocal Music Boosters
- McGavin Group
- MightyMeals, Burke
- Nothing Bundt Cakes
- Rotary Club of Springfield
- Shelley Draheim, Realtor
- Springfield Franconia Lions Club
- Thermo Quick, Inc.
- Welcome Club of NOVA



ECHO FY 2024 ANNUAL REPORT



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